

3. (amended) The utensil of claim 1 further comprising a base fixed to the second end.

8. (amended) The utensil of claim 2 wherein each of said plurality of grooves with respect to another equidistantly terminates between said first and second ends.

11. (amended) A food utensil comprising:

a hollow body having an inner wall forming an interior and an outer wall, an open first end and a closed second end, and, a plurality of grooves each longitudinally extending from the first end to a corresponding plurality of points approaching the second end;

a plurality of blades extending across said interior; and

a blade rack slidably engaged with said outer wall for attachment of said plurality of blades wherein each of said plurality of blades correspondingly extends through one of said plurality of grooves.

Please add the following new claims:

12. (new) The utensil of claim 11 wherein each of said plurality of grooves with respect to another equidistantly terminates between said first and second ends.

13. (new) An appliance comprising:

a hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall forming an interior;

a plurality of blades extending across said interior; and

a receptacle for holding an item to be sliced, that upon appliance operation is slidably engaged along said outer wall thereby forcing said item against said blades for slicing thereof.

14. (new) A method of slicing a food item comprising:
providing a plurality of blades within a hollow body and across a diameter thereof;
inserting a food item to be sliced in a receptacle; and
slidably engaging the receptacle along an outer circumference of the hollow body to bias the item against and at least partially through the blades thereby slicing the item.
15. (new) A method of slicing a food item comprising:
placing a cylindrical food item within a hollow body of an appliance along the length of the hollow body;
providing a plurality of blades within the hollow body and across a diameter thereof; and
sliding the blades along the length of the hollow body thereby slicing at least a portion of the cylindrical food item.
16. (new) A method of slicing a food item comprising:
providing a plurality of blades within a hollow body and across a cross-section thereof; and
affecting a relative motion between the food item and the plurality of blades thereby slicing at least a portion of the food item.
17. (new) A food slicer comprising:
a hollow body having an inner wall and an outer wall, said walls defining an interior;
a plurality of blades within said hollow body and extending across a cross-